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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/729,302

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EXAMINER

THOMPSON, JAMES A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2625

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DELIVERY MODE

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/729,302	Applicant(s) HANSEN, DAVID R.	
	Examiner James A. Thompson	Art Unit 2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 February 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 40-63 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 26 February 2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that none of the references cited disclose a method and system for operating a print system in which a print operator can assign first and second identifiers to respective groups of pages to be printed at respective first and second printers wherein a group of pages can include consecutive and non-consecutive pages that can be single pages or sub-groups of pages. Applicant further asserts that Motoyama (US-5,353,388) does not disclose using different identifiers to print different groups of pages of a document at different printers, and that The Microsoft Word document ("Working with Microsoft Word 6.0: Part II - The Art of Page Design", Smart Computing in Plain English, May 1995, pages 54-57) only discloses information for page design including creating sections. Applicant further argues that Rourke does not disclose the claimed element of "grouping pages consecutively and non-consecutively" since, in the claimed invention, it is the printer operator that assigns group identifiers into the document to establish groups of pages in the document to thereby create an amended document, wherein a single group of pages can include both consecutive and non-consecutive pages that can be single pages or sub-groups of pages.

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Examiner replies that one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986). It is the combination of Motoyama, MS Word, and Rourke that teaches a method and system for operating a print system in which a print operator can assign first and second identifiers to respective groups of pages to be printed at respective first and second printers wherein a group of pages can include consecutive and non-consecutive pages that can be single pages or sub-groups of pages.

As set forth in the prior art rejections, Motoyama teaches that a Print Document Management system (PDMS) program facilitates assigning group identifiers into the document to establish groups of pages in the document, as shown in figure 1a (110) and column 3, lines 49-54 of Motoyama. Therein, Motoyama describes how the page sets have prologue sections that define the structure of the document. Motoyama further teaches that a single group of pages can include consecutive pages that can be single pages or sub-groups of pages, as shown in column 4, lines 12-23 of Motoyama which describes using single pages or sequences of pages.

Motoyama does not teach a print operator can assign first and second identifiers to respective groups of pages to be printed at respective first and second printers; that said group of pages can also include non-consecutive pages; and that a first

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group of pages is assigned a first identifier for printing at a first printer and a second group of pages is assigned a second identifier for printing at a second printer. However, MS Word teaches a graphical user interface that permits character and paragraph formatting (figure 1 of MS Word); and dividing a document into sections by positioning an insertion point where an operator wants to begin a section (page 6, column 1, last three lines of MS Word). Further, Rourke discloses grouping pages consecutively and non-consecutively (figure 6(58-62) and column 10, lines 10-19 of Rourke - *The pages grouped for printing based on page attributes and printer capabilities. Printing distribution is not based on whether pages are consecutive. Thus, for a given document, pages may be grouped consecutively and non-consecutively depending upon the document page organization and the attributes of the available printers.*); and that a first group of pages is assigned a first identifier for printing at a first printer and a second group of pages is assigned a second identifier for printing at a second printer (figures 9-10 and column 11, lines 6-17 of Rourke - *identifiers set by user in establishing multiple queue print job*). While in Rourke, it is not specifically the printer operator that does the assigning, by combination with Motoyama and MS Word, such a teaching is brought out. Again, Applicant must look to the combination of references as specifically set forth in the office action, rather than insist that a single reference teach a particular limitation.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. **Claims 40, 42-43, 46, 48-50, 52, 54-55, 58 and 60-62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Motoyama (US-5,353,388), MS Word ("Working with Microsoft Word 6.0: Part II - The Art of Page Design", Smart Computing in Plain English, May 1995, pages 54-57), and Rourke (US-5,995,721).**

Regarding claims 40 and 52: Motoyama discloses a system (figure 2 and column 3, lines 26-31 of Motoyama) for printing a document having a plurality of pages (column 5, lines 28-35 of Motoyama) comprising a print document management system (PDMS) program for running on a computer (column 5, lines 50-52 of Motoyama), the PDMS program facilitating: receiving the document into the print document management program (column 5, lines 46-52 of Motoyama - *the various software modules [figure 3(200-210) of Motoyama] constitute a print document management system and receive the document to be processed*); assigning group identifiers into the document to establish groups of pages in the document (figure 1a(110) and column 3, lines 49-54 of Motoyama), wherein a single group of pages can include consecutive pages

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that can be single pages or sub-groups of pages (column 4, lines 12-23 of Motoyama); and instructing the computer to send groups of pages of the document (column 10, lines 34-40 of Motoyama) to an output data stream for printing (column 11, lines 38-43 of Motoyama).

Motoyama further discloses a program executed by a host computer, and therefore a corresponding graphical user interface (GUI), for altering the document data (column 5, lines 38-42 of Motoyama).

Motoyama does not disclose expressly a GUI that facilitates the steps of receiving, assigning and instructing; that said group of pages can also include non-consecutive pages; that a first group of pages is assigned a first identifier for printing at a first printer and a second group of pages is assigned a second identifier for printing at a second printer; that performing said step of assigning thereby creates an amended document; and that said output stream for printing is at said first and second printers, respectively.

MS Word teaches a graphical user interface that permits character and paragraph formatting (figure 1 of MS Word); and dividing a document into sections by positioning an insertion point where an operator wants to begin a section (page 6, column 1, last three lines of MS Word).

Motoyama and MS Word are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor, namely the manipulation, editing and processing of digital document image data. At the time of the

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invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to used a GUI for the purpose of allowing a print operator to format the document, as taught by MS Word, and thus facilitate the steps of receiving, assigning and instructing. Furthermore, by formatting the document, the print operator creates an amended document. The use of a GUI to format an object would have been well known to those of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, would have been readily implemented as part of the system of Motoyama, and would simply produce readily predictable results. Further, Motoyama teaches a document editor that allows a user to create PDL document with embedded commands, thus demonstrating a further reason to combine the GUI of MS Word with the system of Motoyama. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine MS Word with Motoyama.

The combination of Motoyama and MS Word does not disclose expressly that said group of pages can also include non-consecutive pages; that a first group of pages is assigned a first identifier for printing at a first printer and a second group of pages is assigned a second identifier for printing at a second printer; and that said output stream for printing is at said first and second printers, respectively.

Rourke discloses grouping pages consecutively and non-consecutively (figure 6(58-62) and column 10, lines 10-19 of Rourke - *The pages grouped for printing based on page attributes and printer capabilities. Printing distribution is not based on whether pages are consecutive. Thus, for a given document, pages*

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may be grouped consecutively and non-consecutively depending upon the document page organization and the attributes of the available printers.); that a first group of pages is assigned a first identifier for printing at a first printer and a second group of pages is assigned a second identifier for printing at a second printer (figures 9-10 and column 11, lines 6-17 of Rourke - identifiers set by user in establishing multiple queue print job); and that said output stream for printing is at said first and second printers, respectively (column 9, lines 24-34 of Rourke).

The combination of Motoyama and MS Word is combinable with Rourke because they are from the same field of endeavor, namely the manipulation, editing and processing of digital document image data. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to allow the groups of pages taught by Motoyama to be grouped both consecutively and non-consecutively, as taught by Rourke, and to assign a identifiers for printing at different printers. The motivation for doing so would have been to increase overall printing speed for a print job and to provide an improved printed output by having the various pages of the print job printed on the printer most suited to the attributes of each particular page. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Rourke with the combination of Motoyama and MS Word to obtain the invention as specified in claims 40 and 52.

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Further regarding claim 40: The system of claim 52 performs the method of claim 40.

Regarding claims 42 and 54: Motoyama discloses that the print operator instructs the computer to send some or all of the document (column 10, lines 34-40 of Motoyama) to one or more printing devices (column 11, lines 38-43 of Motoyama).

Regarding claims 43 and 55: Motoyama discloses that a printing device processes the amended document that it receives from the computer (column 11, lines 38-41 of Motoyama) and prints one or more pages of the amended document (column 11, lines 41-43 of Motoyama).

Regarding claims 46 and 58: Motoyama discloses that the PDMS receives the input identifiers through the GUI (column 5, lines 15-19 and lines 38-41 of Motoyama - *host computer with host interface inherently comprises some form of GUI*) by prompting the printer operator to select group identifiers from a list of identifiers (column 4, lines 18-23 of Motoyama - *GUI used to manipulate software, and thus select group identifiers from among available group identifiers [list of pages that can be grouped together]*).

Regarding claims 48 and 60: Motoyama discloses that the assignment of group identifiers is made by entering an address or other label (prologue [110]) that instructs the computer to format the groups for compatibility with input requirements of a printing device (column 4, lines 13-19 and column 6, lines 11-24 of Motoyama - *PDL command stream, which includes the prologue(s)*

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defining how the page image data is to be handled, are formatted so as to be compatible with the printing device to be used).

Regarding claims 49 and 61: Motoyama discloses defining a plurality of page sets (figure 1A (104) of Motoyama) from the overall document body (figure 1A(102) of Motoyama) based on page set definitions (column 4, lines 13-23 of Motoyama). Therefore, if the selected pages of a first page set overlap the selected pages of a second page set, then at least one page of the document will belong to more than one group of pages.

Regarding claims 50 and 62: Motoyama discloses that the identifiers (prologue) define the content of the portions of the document (column 4, lines 12-23 of Motoyama). Therefore, if a group of document pages do not have an identifier, then said group of document pages is a null page group.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing

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date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James A. Thompson whose telephone number is (571)272-7441. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L. Coles can be reached on 571-272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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/James A Thompson/
Primary Examiner
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